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zations" recognized in the first of the resolutions appended below. The accompanying admirable open letter of Mr. Petrie explains the practical possibilities of such independent societies all working in unison for the "Fund." We let his noble appeal speak for itself.

RESOLUTIONS OF THE LONDON COMMITTEE OF THE EGYPT EXPLORATION FUND, 6 APRIL, 1897.

1. That it is desirable to recognize independent organizations in America and to agree to such organizations having direct relations to the London Committee.
2. That an organization which shall have contributed on an average not less than \$750 per annum may, if desiring it, have a voice and a vote on the London Committee.

The representative will be coöpted by the London Committee on presenting his credentials; he will be changeable at pleasure of the nominating organization, and will be appointed without limitation of nationality or of existing relation to the E. E. F.

3. That each contributory organization (whether taking advantage of clause 2 or not) shall supply a statement of the number of its actual subscribers each year when remitting funds, shall receive a corresponding number of all publications of works issued to subscribers for the time being (but not exceeding one copy for each \$5 received in London) and shall be responsible for the distribution of such publications. These conditions concerning publications of the Exploration Fund will equally apply to the separate work of the Archæological Survey. And each organization shall agree to place in public museums such antiquities as may be allotted to it in an equitable distribution.

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AN OPEN LETTER FROM PROFESSOR PETRIE.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON, W. C.

12 April, 1897.

MY DEAR FRIEND:—As I have been asked to say something definite regarding the middleman organizations between subscribers and excavators, I would place before you the following points, speaking from my own personal view.

As all of these organizations exist only to get the best results from a given expenditure in Egypt, we must look to the Egyptian side first.

The great advantages gained by pooling the work and proceeds of several excavations together, are sometimes forgotten.

1. The mass of duplicates that are generally found can be divided between several places, thus relieving any one place from an incubus of material.
2. There are much fewer chances of a blank year, and of losing interest and support.

3. A far more varied and representative collection is secured by each place.
4. The fixed costs are wider spread, duplication of work is avoided, and the cost of administration is reduced.
5. There is not the danger of separate interests causing trouble.
6. The great danger is avoided of isolated centers sending out untrained men who might wreck sites, destroy information, and spoil the workmen by injudicious expenditure. A continuity of method, and the benefit of past experiences (often dearly bought) are secured to those who enter on work in unison with the present workers.

I therefore, in the interest of exploration, wish to see maintained as wide a circle of support and of work as can be kept together.

From this point, remembering gratefully the help that I have so often found from America, I wish while continuing to work for American interests, to yet avoid separating them from English support.

The difficulties that have arisen from opposing and isolated views seem to point to the inconvenience of framing a single American organization at present. And hence it seems that the most likely mode of union, for the common benefits that I have named above, is by a body of wide and general representation sitting in England.

Such a representative committee is, I am happy to find, equally the wish of most persons here. And as the present London Committee of the Egypt Exploration Fund is renewed by coöption, there is no legal difficulty in its at once accepting the American representatives. Thus will be formed the basis for the united organization which is required at this time, aiming at an equal representation of English and American supporters.

The actual propositions for this new settlement are now laid before you by the present London Committee, and I earnestly hope that they will meet with your views, and that each American organization will feel the assurance that it is kept informed by its representative of important business, that its wishes as to the general character of the work have full weight, and that in the matter of antiquities its needs are fairly and suitably recognized.

Of course an organization may be of any independent form, title, or limitations, that may seem best on the spot, and it is not pledged to any sole cause for its exertions.

You will observe that wide liberty of action in connection with the representative committee is proposed in this resettlement. If any American center wishes to employ any scholar connected with it, this can be done without losing representation, either by his working with us for the E. E. F. for a time, or by American funds being directly diverted to him, provided that the annual average already contributed to the E. E. F. shall not fall below \$750. The advantages, however, of pooling work and results with other places I have already pointed out.

Regarding representatives, they may be visitors from the States who may be staying in London for any length of time, or permanent residents, or

officials here from the States; or, if none such be available, they can be Englishmen or foreigners, men or women.

The aim has been to overcome the difficulties which necessarily exist, and to try to make such representation as real and effective as possible. A man who will actively attend, with real knowledge of the work and practical interest, would be far more welcome here than a man too big and too busy to look after matters.

Each center is also left quite independent by this arrangement: it can collect and distribute money as it chooses in any way, but will be duly represented on the joint committee if it maintains anything over a certain *minimum* of contribution to the work of the committee.

Regarding the Egyptian Research Account, that was originally framed simply as a student fund to help students in connection with my university college work. Such a character I wish it to maintain, but its future may be open to modification.

The present proposals which will, I hope, prove acceptable are then:

That my own excavations continue to be in the interests of America as well as of England, my work being for a joint committee equally representative of America and of England. And my fellow-workers being, as I hope, both from England and from the States.

This resettlement will continue under the form of the Egypt Exploration Fund. And:

That the Egyptian Research Account will be administered by myself in consultation with its treasurer and any large donors, but, as before, in no case used for my excavations. If I should ever personally work with its money I should necessarily give up administering it. I desire that it shall be a student fund, as an auxiliary to my own work, so as to give scope and training to students under my guidance. All antiquities discovered by its work will of course be distributed to museums in accordance with the support rendered to it. The practical disadvantages of its being separate from the E. E. F. are but small, as duplicates can be exchanged between the two before distribution, and in its present form it has no costs of management.

I have now endeavored to do my best for the interests of excavation in view of the present personal questions. Let me hope that when so important an end is in view,—when the greatest freedom of action possible in any union is proposed,—when the freest voice in all conclusions is welcomed,—and when the greatest advantages to all accrue from their united action,—we may without further differences be able to give our whole will to advancing the solid gain of knowledge, which has so greatly changed our conceptions in even the last few years, and which will make other generations on both sides of the Atlantic look on the world with very different insight to that of our own broken vision.

Believe me to be your very sincere friend,

W. M. FLINDERS PETRIE.